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Weekly Compilation of
PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Monday, December 22, 1975

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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

Presidential Documents

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, Washington, D.C. 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Flat Tops Wilderness, Colorado

Statement by the President on Signing S. 267 Designating the Wilderness Area, While Expressing Reservations About Certain of Its Provisions. December 13, 1975

I have approved S. 267, which designates a 235,230-acre Flat Tops Wilderness within the Routt and White River National Forests of Colorado.

The Congress and the executive branch have worked together during the past 11 years to augment the National Wilderness Preservation System established by the Wilderness Act of 1964. The System, now including more than 12 million acres, shows that much progress has been made in securing for all Americans the benefit of an enduring resource of wilderness. Last year, in two separate messages, I proposed a total of 52 new additions which, if accepted by the Congress, would add about 15 million acres to the Wilderness System.

Although I have signed S. 267, it should be noted that the bill designates an area some 93,000 acres larger than the approximately 142,000-acre wilderness proposed by President Johnson in 1968. Furthermore, it illustrates three concerns of mine regarding the designation of wilderness within the National Forest System.

First, the Administration has strongly and consistently urged the Congress not to designate National Forest areas as wilderness where the evidence of man's activity is clearly apparent. The Flat Tops Wilderness, nevertheless, includes some constructed reservoirs, partially constructed roads, and private lands with cabins and other improvements.

Second, Administration proposals for National Forest Wildernesses follow careful study and are designed to assure that the proposed boundaries would, to the maximum extent possible, follow recognizable natural features and be located to facilitate protection of the wilderness. The Flat Tops Wilderness boundaries, in contrast to the Administration's proposal, contain several narrow and deep boundary indentations that will be difficult to define and manage.

Third, this Administration and every other administration since 1964 have urged the Congress to consider carefully trade-offs between wilderness values and other resource values and uses. These trade-offs are particularly important within the National Forest System where wilderness is but one of several very important resources that must be managed for the benefits of all Americans. The Flat Tops Wilderness contains important forest, water, recreation, wildlife, and forage resource values that will now be partially or completely forgone. Moreover, a mineral survey has not been conducted within much of the area which the Congress added to the Administration's Flat Tops Wilderness proposal. However, because mineral resources within the general Flat Tops area are believed to be minimal, I have decided not to insist that additional mineral studies be undertaken.

I am hopeful the Congress will work more closely with the executive branch regarding proposed additions to the Wilderness System. Several National Forest Wilderness proposals now being considered by the Congress would include acreages significantly larger than those proposed by the Administration. In some cases, the additional areas would more than double the acreage we proposed. More careful consideration must be given to these proposals if we are to maintain a high-quality Wilderness System while protecting many other important management opportunities for these lands.

NOTE: As enacted, the bill (S. 267) is Public Law 94–146, approved December 12, 1975.

Disaster Assistance for Washington

Announcement of Disaster Declaration and Authorization of Federal Assistance Following Severe Storms and Flooding. December 13, 1975

The President today declared a major disaster for the State of Washington as a result of severe storms and flooding, beginning about November 30, which caused extensive public, private, and agricultural property dam-

age. The President's action will permit the use of Federal funds in relief and recovery efforts in designated areas of the State.

Federal assistance from the President's Disaster Relief Fund will consist primarily of temporary housing, disaster unemployment assistance payments to those who lost their jobs as a result of the storms and floods, debris removal, and the repair or restoration of damaged or destroyed streets, roads, bridges, and public facilities and utilities. Low-interest-rate disaster loans will be made available by the Small Business Administration, and emergency loan assistance will be made available by the Farmers Home Administration.

Federal relief activities in Washington will be coordinated by the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, Department of Housing and Urban Development, under the direction of Administrator Thomas P. Dunne. Mr. Dunne will designate the specific areas within the State eligible for Federal assistance, based upon Federal and State damage assessments.

Mr. William H. Mayer, Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, HUD Region X, will be designated as the Federal Coordinating Officer to work with the State in providing Federal disaster assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93–288.

Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser of Australia

The President's Message of Congratulations to the Prime Minister on His Election Victory. December 13, 1975

I wish to extend to you my congratulations on the Liberal Party/National Country Party coalition victory in the recent Australian election. Americans continue to attach great importance to the warm friendship and close cooperation between the United States and Australia, and to the ANZUS alliance which symbolizes the basic identity of our values and objectives.

I look forward to working with you and your government as we face the challenges of strengthening the structure of peace and economic cooperation.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

Holiday for Federal Employees

Executive Order 11891. December 15, 1975

PROVIDING FOR THE CLOSING OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1975

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

SECTION 1. All Executive departments, independent establishments, and other governmental agencies, including their field services, except as provided by Section 2 below, shall be closed, and employees thereof shall be excused from duty, on Friday, December 26, 1975, the day following Christmas Day.

SEC. 2. Section 1 of this Order shall not apply to those offices and installations, or parts thereof, in the Department of State, the Department of Defense, or other departments, independent establishments, and governmental agencies which the heads thereof determine should remain open for reasons of national security or defense or other public reasons, nor to employees thereof who in the judgment of their agency heads should be at their posts of duty for these reasons.

SEC. 3. Friday, December 26, 1975, shall be considered as falling within the scope of Executive Order No. 11582 and of 5 U.S.C. 5546 and 6103(b) and other similar statutes so far as they relate to the pay and leave of employees of the United States.

GERALD R. FORD

The White House,
December 15, 1975.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:52 a.m., December 15, 1975]

Export-Import Bank of the United States

Announcement of Intention To Nominate Stephen M. DuBrul To Be President of the Bank. December 15, 1975

The President today announced his intention to nominate Stephen M. DuBrul, of New York, N.Y., to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. He will succeed William J. Casey, who has resigned.

Since 1972, Mr. DuBrul has been a partner in the firm of Lazard Freres & Company of New York. During 1971–72, he was senior managing director and director of Lehman Brothers, Inc. He joined Lehman Brothers in 1956 and served successively as an associate in corporate finance (1956–1960) and a partner (1961–1970).

Born on March 18, 1929, in Detroit, Mich., Mr. DuBrul attended Notre Dame University from 1946 to 1948. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Michigan in 1950 and his M.B.A. from Harvard Business School, with distinction, in 1956. He was with the Central Intelligence Agency as a Case Officer in Washington, D.C., from 1950 to 1952. He served in the United States Army in the Counter Intelligence Corps from 1952 to 1954.

Mr. DuBrul is married to the former Antonia Paepke, and they have two children.

Department of State

Announcement of Intention To Nominate Samuel W. Lewis To Be Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs. December 15, 1975

The President today announced his intention to nominate Samuel W. Lewis, of Houston, Tex., to be Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs. He will succeed William Buffum, who has resigned.

Since 1974, Mr. Lewis has been Deputy Director of the Policy Planning Staff for the Department of State. He was assigned from 1971 to 1974 as Deputy Chief of Mission in Kabul, after having been Special Assistant to the Director General of the Foreign Service during 1970–71. He attended the Senior Seminar in Foreign Policy at the Foreign Service Institute. In 1968, he became Deputy Director of the Office of Brazilian Affairs for the Department and the Agency for International Development, and later served as a senior staff member of the National Security Council during 1968–69. In 1969, he became Special Assistant for Policy Planning of the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs of the State Department.

During 1967–68, Mr. Lewis was Assistant Director for Development of the Office of Brazilian Affairs at AID, after serving as a Foreign Affairs officer in 1966–67. He was Executive Assistant to the Ambassador to Brazil during 1966, after serving as Deputy Assistant Director for Technical Cooperation for Aid in Rio from 1964 to 1966. During 1963–64 he was a Visiting Fellow at Princeton University. From 1959 to 1962, he served successively at the State Department as Officer in Charge of Italian Affairs and as Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of State (1961–62).

Born on October 1, 1930, in Houston, Tex., Mr. Lewis received his A.B. degree in 1952 from Yale University. He attended Johns Hopkins University and received his M.A. in 1954. From 1954 to 1959, he was assigned to Italy as Consular Officer in Naples and later was a Political Officer and Acting Principal Officer in Florence.

Mr. Lewis is married to the former Sallie Smoot, and they have two children. They reside in the District of Columbia.

United States Ambassador to Canada

Announcement of Intention To Nominate Thomas O. Enders. December 15, 1975

The President today announced his intention to nominate Thomas O. Enders, of Waterford, Conn., to be Ambassador to Canada. He will succeed William J. Porter, who has been reassigned.

Since 1974, Mr. Enders has been Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs. Prior to his appointment, he was Deputy Chief of Mission in Phnom Penh beginning in 1971. From 1969 to 1971, he was Deputy Chief of Mission in Belgrade. During 1968–69, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Monetary Affairs.

He was born on November 28, 1931, in Hartford, Conn. Mr. Enders received his B.A. degree in 1953 from Yale University. He holds M.A. degrees from the University of Paris (1955) and Harvard University (1957).

Mr. Enders entered government service as a Research Specialist, Division of Research and Analysis for the Far East, from 1959 to 1960, and was an Economic Officer in Stockholm from 1960 to 1963. From 1963 to 1966, he was a Supervisory International Economist in the Bureau of European Affairs, and from 1966 to 1968, was a Special Assistant in the Office of the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. He received the Arthur S. Flemming Award in 1970.

Mr. Enders is married to the former Gaetana Marchegiano, and they have four children.

White House Christmas Party

The President's Remarks at the Christmas Party for the White House Staff. December 15, 1975

Mr. Vice President, members of the White House family:

Christmas has a very special meaning for all of us regardless of our religious beliefs because it is a holiday built around the concept of the family. What began with Joseph and Mary and the infant Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem—the sentiments of togetherness and love—has spread over the centuries to millions and millions of homes. And as a result, regardless of where it is around the world, I think it has become an almost universal blessing.

Betty and I, along with Susan and the rest of the family, are very delighted to have all of you in this

wonderful home and to participate in the first showing of the wonderful decorations that have been put together and made available for as many as can come and see what we have here in the White House. Betty says for an old fashioned Christmas. [*Laughter*]

But let me say, in addition to seeing the wonderful decorations and I hope getting the warmth of the feeling that exists here, we do want to express to all of you our deepest appreciation and broadest gratitude for all that you have done over the last 16 or 17 months to try and make our Government work from the White House as effectively as possible.

We can't express deeply enough or vigorously enough our gratitude and indebtedness to you. Naturally, we know the long hours you have put in have interfered with your own family and I suspect some of your Christmas shopping. But if you will excuse the hours even on these days at this time of the year, we want to say strongly, forcefully, and with the deepest gratitude our best wishes for a very, very Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years.

Thank you very, very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:58 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

President's Panel on Federal Compensation

The President's Letter to Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller Upon Receiving the Panel's Report. December 16, 1975

Dear Nelson:

I thank you and the other members of the President's Panel on Federal Compensation for your report of the Panel's recommendations. All of you are to be commended for the tremendous effort you put into this study.

Your assessment of the current Federal Compensation System is very important and timely. It provides the Administration with a valuable tool to improve the Federal pay system so that it is equitable and fair to both Government employees and the American public.

Once again, thank you for a job well done.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

[The Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller, The Vice President of the United States, Washington, D.C.]

NOTE: The report is entitled "Report to The President of the President's Panel on Federal Compensation—December 1975" (Government Printing Office, 44 pp.).

Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals

The President's Message to the Senate Transmitting the Convention for Advice and Consent to Ratification. December 17, 1975

To the Senate of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit for the Senate's advice and consent to ratification the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals, with Annex, done at London June 1, 1972. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Convention.

Though commercial sealing has not yet started in the water and on the sea ice in Antarctica, this Convention provides some valuable protection for seals of that region. It prohibits entirely the commercial taking of three species of Antarctic seals and sets conservative limits on the taking of three other species. It prohibits sealing in the water, except in limited quantities for scientific research. It sets aside reserves where no sealing can take place and forbids sealing entirely during six months of the year. More importantly, it sets up the machinery to give the necessary warning when catch limits are being approached. It obligates the Parties at that point to prevent further sealing by their nationals and vessels. Provision is also made for adoption of additional controls, including an effective system of inspection, if commercial sealing starts in the area. There is nothing in the Convention to prevent a Party from adopting for its nationals and vessels more stringent controls than provided in the Convention. The United States has done this in the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. While that legislation is in effect, and until the Parties decide to adopt controls and inspection procedures, in accordance with Article VI, no new legislation is needed to implement the Agreement.

Unfortunately in recent years, it has often been only after a species or class of wildlife has become severely depleted or even endangered that international conservation measures have been initiated. This Convention represents a unique opportunity for the world community to put into practice the hard learned lessons of the past and to act prospectively to protect the seals of Antarctica. I urge the Senate to give the Convention its prompt and favorable consideration.

GERALD R. FORD.

The White House,
December 17, 1975.

Public Forums on Domestic Policy

Letter to the President From Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller Reporting on the Findings Resulting From the Forums. Dated December 15, 1975. Released December 17, 1975

Dear Mr. President:

This letter transmits to you a report of the findings resulting from recent Public Forums on Domestic Policy.

During the past two and a half months, the Domestic Council, at your direction, has held a series of Public Forums across the country to explore public concerns and recommendations on domestic policy.

Taken as a whole, these Public Forums, together with hundreds of statements submitted to the Council by individuals and organizations from all across the nation, represent a profoundly moving portrait of America today—an America whose people are troubled yet hopeful, hard-pressed yet vigorous, and, above all, faithful to the democratic process.

Consider the broad spectrum of opinion represented at these Forums: from welfare recipients to mayors and governors; from Indians, the clergy, blacks, Spanish-speaking Americans, housewives and senior citizens to industrialists, labor leaders, bank presidents, environmentalists, doctors, lawyers, state and local officials. And many more.

The common thread that ran through this diversity was an abiding faith in the process conceived by the men who founded this nation 200 years ago.

We went to the people to listen to their words—voices raised in the belief that they would be heard and that, somehow, it would make a difference. "Almost makes one think the U.S. Government is interested in our problems," a woman from Cave Junction, Oregon, wrote regarding the Forum process.

We heard criticisms. And complaints. And frustration.

We heard distressing stories of individual tragedy and deprivation.

But we also heard stories of success, hundreds of them—success in setting up rural health clinics in the arid southern region of Texas, success in finding jobs for the unemployed in Pittsburgh, and success in delivering hot meals to the elderly in Appalachia. Time and again, such stories of success were cited as examples for others to follow in solving similar problems. And they were cited to help the Federal government respond in ways that best serve the people.

In many cases, of course, people wanted more money for their programs. But in the main, what was called for from the Federal government was leadership, understanding, clearer policies, simpler rules, and program consolidation. Very specific ideas were suggested, and they are summarized in the volume which is being transmitted with this letter.

This volume contains a summary of the submitted oral and written statements, separated by subject matter, for each of the six Forums, together with a "Summary of Findings" which sets forth the most frequently expressed concerns and recommendations. The volume is the product of a meticulous reading of over 12,000 pages of submitted written material and transcripts from more than 90 hours of public testimony. Altogether, it represents the participation of more than 6,000 individuals.

The volume represents an unbiased effort to document the views of all the participants, quoting extensively from them where such quotes distill their views or recommendations. Included in the summaries are appendices which contain Forum agendas and participant lists. All of this material is being incorporated into the Domestic Council's review process.

Mr. President, I come away from this experience buoyed by what I perceive to be a note of optimism that runs through this land today, especially among those who were touched by the Forum process. People of widely differing views and backgrounds came to these Forums and submitted constructive ideas to a process they trust—the democratic process. The note of optimism that I hear is sounded by a free people who know that their voices are heard and that they, themselves, can make a difference in how we, as a nation, will live and grow in our country's third century.

Sincerely,

NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER

[The Honorable Gerald R. Ford, The President of the United States, Washington, D.C.]

NOTE: The Vice President met with the President at the White House on Tuesday afternoon, December 16, to discuss the findings resulting from the Public Forums on Domestic Policy.

The text of the letter was made available by the White House Press Office. It was not issued in the form of a White House press release. Copies of the report were also made available with the letter.

Veto of Tax Cut Extension Bill

The President's Remarks to Reporters Upon Vetoing H.R. 5559. December 17, 1975

Good evening, everybody.

I am vetoing the temporary tax cut extension bill sent to me by the Congress today. I have been telling the Congress ever since October that I would veto any tax cut if the Congress failed to cut Federal spending at the same time. Congress has refused to put any limit at this time on spending for the next fiscal year and instead sent me a temporary 6-month extension of the present temporary 1975 tax levels due to expire on New Year's Eve.

There is no need for your withholding taxes to go up in 1976. There is no need for a prolonged confrontation with the Congress on this question. I believe and the

Congress evidently believes that our Nation will benefit by giving American taxpayers a break in 1976.

The differences between Congress and me are these:

As I proposed last October 6, I want a larger tax cut in 1976 than we have had in 1975—$28 billion to be exact—while the bill before me would merely extend this year's tax rate which works out to about $18 billion a year.

As I made clear over 2 months ago, I want any cut in Federal tax revenues coupled with a cut in the runaway growth of Federal spending. Unless we start doing this now, we will run up larger and larger deficits and get farther and farther away from a balanced budget. We will risk a new round of double-digit inflation which would invisibly tax every dollar you have or you earn in the future by a much higher figure than any relief this bill offers.

The Congress offers only to keep a temporary lid on taxes while leaving the Federal cash register wide open for whatever spending Congress wants to take out in an election year. That I cannot and will not accept.

I said I would submit a $395-billion budget for fiscal year 1977 next January, and I intend to do so. This represents a $28-billion reduction in the growth of Federal spending. If Congress will go along on this overall ceiling—not on every detail as to where the cuts should come—we could have a $28-billion tax cut next year without adding to inflation.

I must return this bill to Congress, but this does not mean your taxes must go up next year. The Congress still has time before Christmas to send me back a tax cut extension for 1976 coupled with a clear commitment to cut the growth of Federal spending. Such a signal to the country and to the world that the Federal Government in Washington is at last facing up to its responsibility to control runaway spending would be the best Christmas present overburdened American taxpayers have had in decades. I am willing and waiting to sign such legislation.

There is only one real issue here, and it requires some very plain speaking. The American people want tax relief, need tax relief, and deserve Federal tax relief. But they also want uncontrolled Federal spending to stop. Their Government, the officials they entrust with the power to tax and to spend taxes, for years and years have not been playing fair with them. Their Government has been raising Federal benefits knowing full well those benefits have to be paid for by future taxpayers or by the merciless tax of constant inflation.

The American people know this. You know it, and I know it. Upon serious second thought, I am sure the majority of the Congress will recognize it. The only honest way to reduce taxes is to reduce the spending of tax money.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:30 p.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House.

Veto of Tax Cut Extension Bill

The President's Message to the House of Representatives Returning H.R. 5559 Without His Approval. December 17, 1975

To the House of Representatives:

I am returning without my approval the bill, H.R. 5559, sent to me today.

I have clearly stated ever since last October 6 that I would veto any tax cut if you failed to cut future Federal spending at the same time. You have refused at this time to put any limit on spending for the next fiscal year and instead sent me a temporary 6-month extension of the present temporary 1975 tax levels due to expire on New Year's Eve.

There is no need for withholding taxes to go up in 1976. There is no need for a prolonged confrontation between us on this question. I believe and you evidently believe that our nation will benefit by giving taxpayers a break in 1976.

The differences between us are these:

As I proposed last October 6, I want a larger tax cut in 1976 than we have had in 1975—$28 billion to be exact—while the bill before me merely extends this year's tax rate which works out to about $18 billion a year.

As I made clear over two months ago, I want any cut in Federal tax revenues coupled with a cut in the runaway growth of Federal spending. Unless we start doing this now we will run up larger and larger deficits and get farther and farther away from a balanced budget. We will risk a new round of double digit inflation which would invisibly tax every dollar the American people have or earn in the future by a much higher figure than any temporary relief this bill offers.

I said I would submit my recommendations for a $395 billion budget for fiscal 1977 to you next January and I intend to do so. This represents a $28 billion reduction in the projected growth of Federal spending and—if you will go along with me only on this overall ceiling—not on every detail as to where the cuts should come—we could have a $28 billion tax cut next year without adding to inflation, instead of this $18 billion cut that contains no spending cut commitment.

The third difference between our positions as represented by the bill I am vetoing is that your smaller tax cut extension does not give middle income taxpayers their fair share of relief. My $28 billion tax cut proposal would remedy this glaring inequity in the current schedule. While I want even lower Federal income taxes than you have approved in this legislation, I am determined to turn our whole tax policy toward a more fundamental reform. I believe we should leave more and more dollars with the people to spend or save as they please rather than send us more and more dollars to be spent in Washington.

I must return this bill, but this does not mean that taxes must go up next year. I am aware of the new Congressional budgetary procedures for which I voted when I was a member of the House of Representatives. I know that many Senators and Congressmen are trying in good faith to make them work in order to gain control of the currently uncontrollable growth of Federal spending. You still have time before Christmas to send me back a tax cut extension for 1976 coupled with a clear commitment to cut the growth of spending. Such a signal to the country and to the world that the Federal government in Washington is at last facing up to its responsibility to control runaway inflationary spending would be the best Christmas present overburdened American taxpayers have had in decades. I am willing and waiting to sign such legislation.

There is only one real issue here, and it requires some plain speaking. The American people want tax relief, need tax relief and deserve tax relief. Their government—the officials they entrust with the power to tax and to spend taxes—for years and years has not been honest with them. Their government has been cutting Federal taxes with one law and raising Federal benefits with another, knowing full well those benefits have to be paid for by future taxpayers or by the merciless tax of constant inflation, which even taxes the poor.

The American people know this. Upon serious thought, I am sure the majority of this Congress will recognize it. The only honest way to reduce taxes is to reduce the spending of tax money.

I am returning this half-way legislation and asking you to send me a bill that goes all the way, that takes the honest and responsible first step toward a balanced Federal budget, a stable economy, lower taxes and reduced rates of government spending.

GERALD R. FORD

The White House,
December 17, 1975.

Disaster Assistance for Alaska

Announcement of Disaster Declaration and Authorization of Federal Assistance as a Result of Fire and Freezing. December 18, 1975

The President today declared a major disaster for the State of Alaska as a result of fire and freezing beginning about December 2, which caused extensive public and private property damage. The President's action will permit the use of Federal funds in relief and recovery efforts in designated areas of the State.

Federal assistance from the President's Disaster Relief Fund will consist primarily of protective measures, the temporary provision of electric generators, and the repair or restoration of damaged or destroyed public facilities and utilities. Low-interest-rate disaster loans will be made available by the Small Business Administration under the authorities of Public Law 93–24.

Federal relief activities in Alaska will be coordinated by the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, Department of Housing and Urban Development, under the direction of Administrator Thomas P. Dunne. Mr. Dunne will designate the specific areas within the State eligible for Federal assistance, based upon Federal and State damage assessments.

Mr. William H. Mayer, Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, HUD Region X, will be designated as the Federal Coordinating Officer to work with the State in providing Federal disaster assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93–288.

Director of Central Intelligence

The President's Letter to the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee Concerning the Nomination of George Bush To Be Director. December 18, 1975

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As we both know, the Nation must have a strong and effective foreign intelligence capability. Just over two weeks ago, on December 7th while in Pearl Harbor, I said that we must never drop our guard nor unilaterally dismantle our defenses. The Central Intelligence Agency is essential to maintaining our national security.

I nominated Ambassador George Bush to be CIA Director so we can now get on with appropriate decisions concerning the intelligence community. I need—and the Nation needs—his leadership at CIA as we rebuild and strengthen the foreign intelligence community in a manner which earns the confidence of the American people.

Ambassador Bush and I agree that the Nation's immediate foreign intelligence needs must take precedence over other considerations and there should be continuity in the CIA leadership. Therefore, if Ambassador Bush is confirmed by the Senate as Director of Central Intelligence, I will not consider him as my Vice Presidential running mate in 1976.

He and I have discussed this in detail. In fact, he urged that I make this decision. This says something about the man and about his desire to do this job for the Nation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your efforts on behalf of Ambassador Bush's nomination. I will deeply appreciate your efforts to expedite approval of this nominee by your Committee and the full Senate.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

[The Honorable John C. Stennis, Chairman, Armed Services Committee, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510]

NOTE: The text of the letter was made available by the White House Press Office. It was not issued in the form of a White House press release.

March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month, January 1976

Message of the President. December 18, 1975

Every year more than 200,000 American babies suffer birth defects. Some of these abnormalities are relatively minor and can be corrected or treated to reduce their harmful effects. Others cause lifelong disability and limit individual fulfillment. Still others are fatal, striking in either infancy or later life. Some of these defects can be diagnosed before or immediately after birth. Others may not show up until many years later.

Nearly a quarter-million babies each year are threatened by low birthweight. Infants weighing less than five and one-half pounds are less likely to survive and develop normally. Many are born prematurely. In others, the underweight is due to abnormalities of pregnancy, including maternal malnutrition.

About one-fifth of birth defects are inherited. Another twenty percent are thought to result from environmental influences, including drugs, viral infections and radiation—acting on the mother and fetus. The rest are caused by a combination of both factors. More than two thousand hereditary disorders have been catalogued. And the list continues to grow. The potential for environmentally induced defects increases as man-made substances enter the environment.

Many of these defects, particularly low birthweight, can be prevented if we effectively apply present knowledge and strengthen current prenatal and postnatal services. We must do so now if we are to reduce human suffering and costs to society in the future.

Continuing advances in medical technology are increasing our ability to diagnose, prevent and treat some birth disorders. Rapidly developing genetic services allow parents to gain accurate information on their chances of having children with certain heritable birth defects.

But despite two hundred years of progress in nearly every other field of human endeavor, the United States sadly ranks but eighteenth among the nations of the world in combatting infant mortality. For this reason, I call upon the American people to join with me in observing January 1976 as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month, and I salute those who have brought national attention to this critical concern. Only through the cooperation of government, voluntary agencies and the people they serve can we begin to take significant steps toward solving these problems.

I urge everyone to give special attention to efforts to prevent birth defects and lessen infant death in this country. I particularly emphasize to women of childbearing age the importance of seeking regular medical care and maintaining good health in order to ensure the best possible outcome of pregnancy.

Let us all heed the message of March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month: a healthy birthright for all babies.

GERALD R. FORD

NOTE: The President signed the message at an Oval Office ceremony attended by the 1976 March of Dimes National Poster Child, 6-year-old Tammy Patterson, of Mt. Pleasant, Tenn., and Arnold Palmer, Honorary National Chairman of the March of Dimes.

The text of the message was made available by the White House Press Office. It was not issued in the form of a White House press release.

Veto of Tax Cut Extension Bill

Statement by the President Following House Action Sustaining His Veto. December 18, 1975

I am very gratified that the Congress has sustained my veto of the temporary tax cut extension bill sent me yesterday.

As I said then, I am willing and waiting to sign legislation coupling a tax cut extension for 1976 with a clear commitment by Congress to cut the growth of Federal spending. Today's vote was a major milestone toward my goal.

I had every confidence that enough Members of the House of Representatives would have the courage to face the fundamental issue of fiscal responsibility and face it now. I am still convinced that a majority of the House and Senate will, before recessing for Christmas, send me a tax extension bill that recognizes this basic truth: The only honest way to reduce taxes is to reduce the spending of tax money.

There is no need for income taxes to go up on New Year's Day if the Congress in the 13 days remaining in 1976 will join me in such a simple commitment to the American people.

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT OF PEACE

The President's Remarks Before Lighting the National Community Christmas Tree. December 18, 1975

Mr. John Dixon, Mayor Washington, Mr. Ambassador, Secretary Kleppe, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

As we gather here before our Nation's Christmas tree, symbolic of the communion of Americans at Christmastime, we remind ourselves of the eternal truths by which we live. We celebrate the virtues of the human spirit—faith in God and love of one another, and the guiding principles of America—liberty and justice for all.

In our 200 years, we Americans have always honored the spiritual testament of 2000 years ago. We embrace the spirit of the Prince of Peace so that we might find peace in our own hearts and in our own land, and hopefully in the world as well.

Christmas is a celebration of love—it is a time of joy, of giving, of caring. We renew, we demonstrate our conviction that it is more blessed to give than to receive, to believe than to doubt, to hope than to despair, to love rather than stand apart.

We are a national family called America. We come from varied backgrounds. We live in areas far apart from each other. We have different dreams. But we are united this Christmas by our common commitment to one another.

We have much to be grateful for as we enter this Christmas season. We are at peace, and through our efforts significant progress has been made toward a more durable peace throughout the world.

Yes, we have endured economic difficulties, but our Nation and we in the American family can now look forward to a more prosperous new year. And on this eve of our Bicentennial year, liberty and justice still burn brightly as the guiding stars of our Nation.

We pray this Christmas not only for ourselves and our country but for all our brothers and sisters on Earth. We ask for the strength and resolution to help lift the burdens of poverty, ignorance, hunger, and disease from the minds and bodies of men and women and children everywhere.

As we enter America's third century, let us make sure we carry with us our abiding faith in the ultimate triumph of peace on earth and the living example of good will to all men and women. Let us join the great principles of our past, spiritual and temporal, with the great promise of our future.

With the help of God, America's third century will be our proud legacy to so many generations yet to come.

Tonight, as we light the national Christmas tree, Betty joins me in wishing all of you a very merry Christmas and a new year of peace and happiness.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:50 p.m. just before lighting the National Community Christmas Tree on the Ellipse with the help of Camp Fire Girl Michele Lee and Boy Scout Christian Edward Rademacher. In his opening remarks, the President referred to John W. Dixon, president, Pageant of Peace, Inc., and master of ceremonies. The President's remarks were broadcast live on radio and television.

United States Representative to the European Communities

Announcement of Intention To Nominate Deane R. Hinton To Be U.S. Representative With the Rank of Ambassador. December 19, 1975

The President today announced his intention to nominate Deane R. Hinton, of Chicago, Ill., to be the Representative of the United States to the European Communities with the rank of Ambassador. He will succeed Joseph A. Greenwald, who is being reassigned.

Since 1975, Mr. Hinton has been Senior Adviser to the Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, after having served as Ambassador to the Republic of Zaire during 1974–75. He was Deputy Executive Director of the Council on International Economic Policy in 1973–74. He joined the Council in 1971 as Assistant Executive Director serving until 1973. From 1969 to 1971, he was Director of the United States AID Mission and Counselor for Economic Affairs in Santiago. Prior to his appointment, he was with AID as Director and Counselor for Economic Affairs in Guatemala from 1967 to 1969. From 1963 to 1967, he was Director of the Office of Atlantic Political and Economic Affairs for the Bureau of European Affairs. During 1962–63, he was Chief of the Commodity Programming Division for the Bureau of Economic Affairs. He attended the National War College during 1961–62. From 1958 to 1961, he was Chief of the Overseas Development and Finance Section in Brussels for the European Communities.

Mr. Hinton became Chief of the West Europe Branch and later was Chief of Regional European Research for the Bureau of Intelligence from 1955 to 1958. From 1952 to 1955, he was an International Finance Officer in Paris.

Mr. Hinton was born on March 12, 1923, in Fort Missoula, Mont. He received his A.B. degree in 1943 from the University of Chicago. He served in the United States Army as a second lieutenant from 1943 to 1945. He was Chief of the Political Section in Damascus from 1946 to 1949 and later became Principal Officer in Mombasa in 1949, serving until 1951. He attended the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and Harvard University during 1951–52.

Mr. Hinton is married to the former Miren de Aretxabala, and they have nine children.

Veto of Labor-HEW Appropriations Bill

The President's Message to the House of Representatives Returning H.R. 8069 Without His Approval. December 19, 1975

To the House of Representatives:

I return without my approval H.R. 8069, the Departments of Labor and Health, Education, and Welfare Appropriation Act, 1976.

As you know, I have just vetoed H.R. 5559, which would have extended for six months the temporary tax cut due to expire on New Year's Eve, because it was not accompanied by a limit on Federal spending for the next fiscal year. H.R. 8069 is a classic example of the unchecked spending which I referred to in my earlier veto message.

H.R. 8069 would provide nearly $1 billion more in spending authority than I had requested. Not only would the $45 billion total in this bill add significantly to the already burdensome Federal deficits expected this year and next, but the individual increases themselves are unjustified, unnecessary, and unwise. This bill is, therefore, inconsistent with fiscal discipline and with effective restraint on the growth of government.

I am not impressed by the argument that H.R. 8069 is in line with the Congress' second concurrent resolution on the budget and is, therefore, in some sense proper. What this argument does not say is that the resolution, which expresses the Congress' view of appropriate budget restraint, approves a $50 billion, or 15 percent, increase in Federal spending in one year. Such an increase is not appropriate budget restraint.

Effective restraint on the growth of the Federal Government requires effective limits on the growth of Federal spending. This bill provides an opportunity for such limitation. By itself, this bill would add $382 million to this year's deficit and would make next year's deficit $372 million more than if my recommendations had been adopted. In addition, the increases provided for this year would raise expectations for next year's budget and make the job of restraining spending that much more difficult. Thus, this bill would contribute to excessive deficits and needless inflationary pressures.

Furthermore, if this bill became law, it would increase permanent Federal employment by 8,000 people. I find it most difficult to believe the majority of the American people favor increasing the number of employees on the Federal payroll, whether by Congressional direction or by other means. On the contrary, I believe the overwhelming majority agree with my view that there are already too many employees in the Federal Government.

I am returning this bill without my signature and renewing my request to the Congress to approve a ceiling on Federal spending as the best possible Christmas present for the American people.

GERALD R. FORD

The White House,
December 19, 1975.

Senate Action on Additional Funds for Angola

The President's Remarks to Reporters. December 19, 1975

The Senate decision to cut off additional funds for Angola is a deep tragedy for all countries whose security depends upon the United States. Ultimately, it will profoundly affect the security of our country as well.

How can the United States, the greatest power in the world, take the position that the Soviet Union can operate with impunity many thousands of miles away with Cuban troops and massive amounts of military equipment, while we refuse any assistance to the majority of the local people who ask only for military equipment to defend themselves?

The issue in Angola is not, never has been, and never will be a question of the use of U.S. forces. The sole issue is the provision of modest amounts of assistance to oppose military intervention by two extracontinental powers, namely the Soviet Union and Cuba.

This abdication of responsibility by a majority of the Senate will have the gravest consequences for the long-term position of the United States and for international order in general. A great nation cannot escape its responsibilities. Responsibilities abandoned today will return as more acute crises tomorrow.

I therefore call upon the Senate to reverse its position before it adjourns. Failure to do so will, in my judgment, seriously damage the national interest of the United States.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:58 p.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House.

Tax Cut and Spending Reduction Legislation

Statement by the White House Press Secretary. December 19, 1975

The President is very pleased by the actions taken in the Congress tonight on the tax bill.

The bill which has been enacted not only continues cuts in taxes for the first half of 1976 but also represents a good faith commitment by the Congress to match future tax reductions with dollar-for-dollar reductions in projected spending. This has been the essential issue at stake throughout these debates, and the President is gratified that the Congress has now accepted this principle.

The essence of the bill, then, is that taxpayers will continue to enjoy a measure of tax relief in 1976 and that for the first time in history, future reductions in taxes will lead to similar reductions in spending.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

Following is a listing of items of general interest which were announced to the press during the period covered by this issue but which are not carried elsewhere in the issue. Appointments requiring Senate approval are not included since they appear in the list of nominations submitted to the Senate, below.

December 15

Secretary of the Interior Thomas S. Kleppe met with the President at the White House.

The President met with members of the executive committee of the National Minority Purchasing Council, an organization attempting to increase marketing opportunities in the private sector for minority business enterprise.

December 16

The President has accepted the following resignations:

LEONARD W. MAYO, of Chapel Hill, N.C., as Vice Chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, effective today; and

JOHN MCCLAUGHRY, of Concord, Vt., as a member of the National Voluntary Service Advisory Council, effective December 15, 1975.

December 17

The President held a breakfast meeting at the White House with the Chowder and Marching Society and the SOS Club, groups of Republican Members and former Members of the House of Representatives.

Members of the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees met with the President at the White House.

The President and Mrs. Ford hosted a Christmas Ball at the White House for Members of Congress, the Cabinet, and the senior White House Staff.

December 18

In preparation for the State of the Union Address and the Budget Message, the President met at the White House with nine Governors to receive their report on the state of the States. Participating in the meeting were members of the President's Cabinet and the Governors of Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Rhode Island, Wisconsin, Vermont, and West Virginia.

In the evening, the President met with members of the Cabinet, White House Staff, and other Administration officials to discuss common situs picketing legislation and energy legislation.

December 19

The President went to the United States Supreme Court where he participated in the swearing in of John Paul Stevens as an Associate Justice.

Golda Meir, former Prime Minister of Israel, met with the President at the White House.

The President has received the May 1, 1975, report of the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy.

The President has accepted the retirement of Richard J. Putnam as a United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, effective today.

The President and Mrs. Ford hosted a Christmas party for members of the White House press corps.

CHECKLIST OF WHITE HOUSE PRESS RELEASES

The following releases of the Office of the White House Press Secretary, distributed during the period covered by this issue, are not included in the issue.

Released December 16, 1975

Fact sheet: on the report of the President's Panel on Federal Compensation

Released December 17, 1975

News conference: on the findings resulting from the Public Forums on Domestic Policy—by Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller

Released December 18, 1975

News conference: on the President's meeting with nine Governors to receive a report on the state of the States—by Robert D. Ray, Governor of Iowa, and Philip W. Noel, Governor of Rhode Island

News conference: on tax cut and spending limitation legislation—by James T. Lynn, Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Released December 19, 1975

Advance text: remarks to reporters on the Senate action on additional funds for Angola

ACTS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

Approved December 15, 1975

H.R. 5197 ..... Public Law 94-150
An act to authorize the employment of certain foreign citizens on the vessel *Seafreeze Atlantic*, Official Number 517242.

S. 240 ..... Public Law 94-151
An act to amend the Act entitled "An Act granting a charter to the General Federation of Women's Clubs".

Approved December 16, 1975

H.R. 568 ..... Public Law 94-155
An act to grant an alien child adopted by an unmarried United States citizen the same immigrant status as an alien child adopted by a United States citizen and his spouse.

H.R. 6669 ..... Public Law 94-156
An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to engage in feasibility investigations of certain potential water resources developments.

H.R. 11027 ..... Public Law 94-153
An act to amend the effective date of the Defense Production Act Amendments of 1975.

S. 233 ..... Private Law 94-20
An act for the relief of North Central Educational Television, Incorporated.

S. 364 ..... Public Law 94-154
An act relating to certain Forest Service timber sale contracts involving road construction.

S. 1537 ..... Public Law 94-152
Defense Production Act Amendments of 1975.

Approved December 18, 1975

H.R. 10647 ..... Public Law 94-157
Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1976.

NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE SENATE

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted December 15, 1975

SAMUEL W. LEWIS, of Texas, a Foreign Service officer of Class one, to be an Assistant Secretary of State.

STEPHEN M. DUBRUL, JR., of New York, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, vice William J. Casey, resigned.

THOMAS O. ENDERS, of Connecticut, a Foreign Service officer of Class one, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Canada.

Submitted December 19, 1975

DEANE R. HINTON, of Illinois, a Foreign Service officer of the Class of Career Minister, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the European Communities, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

GEORGE N. LEIGHTON, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, vice Abraham L. Marovitz, retired.

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